Agricultural Groundwater **Monitoring Program**

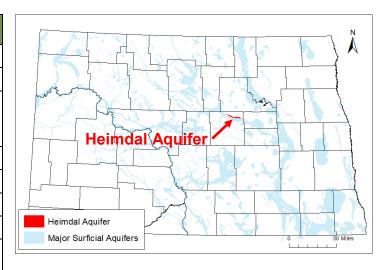
Heimdal Aquifer

Wells County

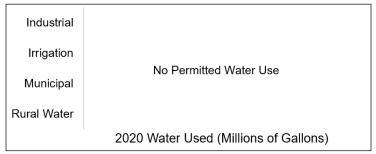
Aquifer At-a-Glance						
Area	15.8 square miles					
Aquifer Type	Unconfined Surficial					
Major Land Uses over Aquifer	Crops (44%)					
(percentage of aquifer area covered in 2017) ¹	Grassland/Pasture (30%)					
Depth to Water (2021)*	1-5 feet					
Total Unique Wells Sampled	7					
Wells Sampled in 2021	4					
Samples Collected in 2021	7					
Years Sampled	1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021					

*Depths to water may vary seasonally, year to year, and across the aquifer

- Aguifer materials consist of sands and gravels that were deposited in an ancient valley by streams moving meltwater away from glaciers during the last ice age.²
- The aguifer averages about 40 feet thick.²
- Domestic and stock wells are installed in the aquifer.
- In North Dakota, permits are required to withdraw large quantities of groundwater. In 2020, no permitted water was drawn from the aquifer. For more information on water use and permits, contact the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (dwr.nd.gov).



2020 Heimdal aquifer permitted water use (from North Dakota Department of Water Resources (dwr.nd.gov))



About the Agricultural Groundwater Monitoring Program

- The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality monitors a network of wells in approximately 50 surficial aquifers that are at elevated risk of agricultural contamination.
- Aquifers are sampled on a 5-year rotation.
- Monitoring began in 1992.
- The vast majority of these aquifers are located in central and eastern North Dakota.
- Water is tested for 21 general chemistry parameters, eight trace metals, and 64 pesticides.

References

US Department of Agriculture, 2017, National Agricultural Statistics Service Cropland Data Layer. Buturla, F. Jr., 1970, Geology and Ground Water Resources of Wells County, North Dakota, North Dakota State Water Commission County Groundwater Studies 12-Part 3, North Dakota Geological Survey Bulletin 51.

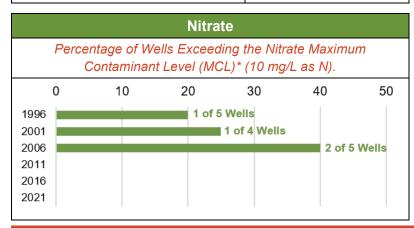
Water Chemistry

Is Aquifer Water High in…?

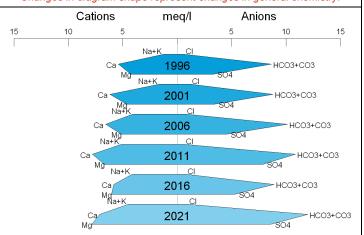
	Analyte	Result	2021 Median Concentration	Potential Effects
	Arsenic	YES	0.011 mg/L	Skin or circulatory system damage, increased cancer risk
r	Iron	YES	9.24 mg/L	Metallic taste/odor, discoloration of surfaces
	Manganese	YES	0.78 mg/L	
?	Sodium	NO	98.1 mg/L	Taste, people with certain health conditions may need to limit intake
	Sulfate	YES	413 mg/L	Taste/odor, laxative effect for people not used to the water

For more information about Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), health effects, and treatment options for these contaminants and more, see the NDDEQ's fact sheets (deq.nd.gov/wq/1_Groundwater) or visit the US EPA website (epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water).

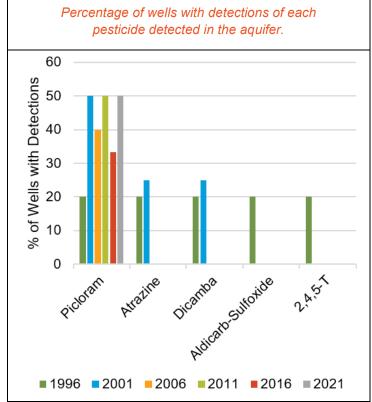
Dominant Water Type	Water Hardness
Calcium-Magnesium-Bicarbonate	Very Hard



Stiff diagram of aquifer median general water chemistry. Changes in diagram shape represent changes in general chemistry.



Pesticides



State Pesticide Management Plan

Agricultural Groundwater Monitoring Program aquifers are monitored as a part of the State Pesticide Management Plan. A Prevention Action Level (PAL) threshold of 25% of the pesticide's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* or Health Advisory Level (HAL) is used to identify whether action is needed to prevent further contamination.

Prevention Action Level Exceedances	Atrazine at 46% of MCL in 1996 and 37% of MCL in 1997 resample. Below PAL in all later samples.	
MCL or HAL Exceedances	None	

Number of Unique Wells with Pesticide Detections since 1996

5 of 7 Total Wells

2021 Pesticide Detections			
Picloram	2 Wells	Herbicide applied to crops and roads/rights-of-way	

*Note that MCLs are for public drinking water systems; private wells are not regulated in North Dakota. MCLs still provide guidelines for drinking groundwater.